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FOUR TRIPS FOR THE SPLITTERS.

Overflow From Boston Market Coming to This Port.

For the first time this season vessels are down here from Boston with fresh fish to split. There is not as much as was expected, considering the big fleet at T wharf Monday and the state of the market, but the trio here this morning are but a fore-runner of what is to come later.

Schs. Mildren Robinson, Slade Gorton and Lillian are the crafts here and they have between 30,000 and 40,000 pounds each, all codfish.

Sch. Grayling is here from Portland, where she landed her halibut, with a nice fare of salt cod.

This morning all the market boats have gone out as it is fishing day surely on the shore grounds.

This noon sch. John Hays Hammond, Capt. Christopher Gibbs, came in with her third halibut trip of the year, a fine catch of 30,000 pounds.

The arrivals and receipts in detail are:

Today's Arrivals and Receipts.

Sch. Lillian, via Boston, 40,000 lbs. fresh fish.

Sch. Slade Gorton, via Boston, 70,000 lbs. fresh fish.

Sch. Mildren Robinson, via Boston, 30,000 lbs. fresh fish.

Sch. Grayling, via Portland, 25,000 lbs. salt cod.

Sch. Ida S. Brooks, shore.

Sch. John Hays Hammond, Quero bank, 30,000 lbs. halibut.

Vessels Sailed.

Sch. Annie and Jennie, shore.

Sch. Mary DeCosta, shore.

Sch. Clara G. Silva, shore.

Sch. Walter P. Goulart, shore.

Sch. Thalia, shore.

Sch. Rita A. Viator, shore.

Sch. Mary Edith, shore.

Sch. Actor, shore.

Sch. Mary E. Cooney, shore.

Sch. Yankee, shore.

Sch. Galatea, shore.

Sch. Mettacommet, shore.

Sch. Gladys and Nellie, shore.

Sch. Nokomis, shore.

Sch. Topsail Girl, shore.

Sch. Esther Gray, shore.

Sch. Eglantine, pollock seining.

Sch. Mabel E. Bryson, shore.

Sch. Mary E. Whalen, Boston.

Sch. Hortense, haddocking.

Sch. Fannie E. Preston, haddocking.

Sch. Ella G. King, Georges.

Sch. Margaret, halibuting.

Steamer Bessie M. Dugan, pollock seining.

Steamer Nomad, pollock seining.

Steamer Quoddy, pollock seining.

Today's Fish Market.

Bank halibut 10c per lb. for white, and 8c for gray.

Georges halibut, 10c per lb., for white and 8c for gray.

Large halibut cod, \$3 per cwt.; medium cod, \$2.75; snappers, \$1.50.

Trawl salt Georges cod, large, \$3.50; mediums, \$3.

Large salt handline Georges cod, \$3.50; mediums, \$3.00.

Trawl bank cod, large, \$3 per cwt.; medium, \$2.75; snappers, \$1.50.

Salt cusk, large, \$2.50 per cwt.; medium, \$2; snappers, \$1.

Salt pollock, \$1.25 per cwt.; salt haddock, \$1.25; salt hake, \$1.25.

Splitting prices for fresh fish, Western cod, large \$2 per cwt.; medium do., \$1.65; Eastern cod, large, \$1.60; medium cod, \$1.40; cusk, \$1.60 for large, \$1.20 for medium and 50c for snappers; haddock, 80 cts.; hake, 90 cts.; pollock, round 65 cts., dressed 70 cts.

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Launch at Essex Tomorrow.

The new schooner built by Arthur D. Story of Essex for the Cunningham & Thompson Company will be launched tomorrow. She will be fitted for the southern mackerel fishery and will be commanded by Capt. John McKinnon. The euphonious name, "Rhodora," will appear on bow and stern.

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NEWFOUNDLAND NEWS.

supreme court.

The Newfoundland sealing season opens on March 10. The Harlaw of Halifax, will be the only Canadian vessel in the fleet.

There will be four steamers in the Gulf this year, the Viking, Southern Cross, Kite and Labrador. The Neptune will this year go to the front.

Whales were very plentiful in Trinity Bay last week, but of course none were killed, as all the steamers are now laying up. Most of them will, however, be put in readiness and commence operations next month.

The first ice for the season was in sight February 26, and extends as far north as can be seen from Cape St. Francis, being jammed in on Bacallieu. Some of the floe is fairly heavy. It is unusual for the ice to appear off here so early in the season and it is doubtless due to the prevalence of strong northerly winds.

Nineteen vessels and 3179 men will leave for the ice on the 12th. Light ice is reported everywhere, but no seals are in sight.

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NEWS FROM NOVA SCOTIA.

John A. Webber, fisheries inspector of Chester was at Mahone Bay Monday week, delivering bounty cheques to the owners of fishing vessels and posting notices for the payment of bounty to fishermen on Saturday the 5th. Payment is being made earlier than usual this year and the amount will be larger per man than it has been for at least 10 years, namely \$7.50 per man as against \$7.25 last year and \$5.25 per man to shore fishermen as against \$4.90 last year.

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WHALING INDUSTRY REVIVED.

Nine Vessels Being Fitted Out at New Bedford—Oil Scarce and High.

Not for many years has so much attention been given to the whale fishery as at present, and today, the first of a fleet of nine whaling vessels, now outfitting at New Bedford, will sail in quest of the great mammals.

The reason for the present activity in the whale fishery is the fact that the market for sperm oil is depleted, while the price stands at 65 cents a gallon. In addition, whalebone is one of the most valuable products obtainable, and there is always a chance of finding a lump of ambergris which is worth far more than its weight in gold. At present prices for bone and oil, a small catch will bring in to vessel owners large dividends on the money spent in outfitting and operating the vessels.

Six of the vessels now preparing for sea will make only short voyages, returning to port in the fall.

The six schooners and the brig Viola will hunt in what is known as the Hatteras grounds, in the North Atlantic. It is also probable that before summer the bark Morning Star will also sail on a long whaling voyage.

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Fishing Out of Pensacola.

Capt. Plus P. McPhee of this city, has been fishing out of Pensacola, Florida, all winter. He is in good health and has been doing well and figures on coming home some time this spring, to go south seining.

Sch. Titania Spoken.

Capt. J. Henry Larkin of sch. Onato, at Boston yesterday, reports speaking sch. Titania, Capt. Patrick Vale, on Georges with 20,000 pounds of salt cod on board.

Discharged Frozen Herring.

Sch. Saladin completed the discharge of her cargo of frozen herring at Boston yesterday and was towed to this port.

Schooners Taking Salt.

Schs. Gossip and S. P. Willard are taking salt from steamer Juno. Sch. Blanche is taking salt from steamer Trym.

Will Fit For Pollock Seining.

Sch. Mary E. Sinnett of Portland is at this port to fit for pollock seining.

Fishing Fleet Movements.

Sch. Teazer was at Shelburne, N. S., Monday and cleared.

MANY VESSELS BUT SMALL FARES

Shore Boats at Boston Report Finding Fish Scarce.

Although there are 32 arrivals at Boston today, the fish receipts are not very heavy, for in the whole lot is only one off-shore craft and the shore boat fares range smaller than usual. Quite a number of the little netters are in with small cod catches and in the whole fleet in are but a dozen fares over 10,000 pounds. The shore boats are certainly finding fish scarce on the usual fishing grounds.

Sch. Regina, the only off-shore, had 65,000 pounds and received \$2 for her haddock, the cod going to East Boston to split as did that of several others of the off-shores which were in Monday and Tuesday.

Of the market boats, sch. Rose Dorothea with 25,000 pounds, was the leader, sch. Elizabeth W. Nunan had 22,000 and sch. Sadie M. Nunan 19,000 pounds. Schs. Gladys and Nellie, Mary E. Cooney, Flavilla, Edith Silveira, Victor and Ethan and Flora J. Sears also have good catches.

Shore haddock brought from \$3 to \$3.50 with \$3 for large cod and \$2 for market cod. Hake and cusk were low and pollock held at \$1.75.

Boston Arrivals.

Sch. Mary Edith, 8000 haddock.

Sch. Olivia Sears,

Sch. Marion,

Sch. Hattie F. Knowlton, 2500 haddock, 200 cod.

Sch. Mettacommet, 4000 haddock, 1000 cod, 6000 hake.

Sch. Louis C. Totman, 5000 cod.

Sch. Little Fanny, 2500 cod.

Sch. Wodan, 4500 cod.

Sch. Topsail Girl, 4000 haddock, 1000 cod, 1500 pollock.

Sch. Diana, 1700 cod.

Sch. N. A. Rowe, 2600 cod.

Sch. Mary E. Cooney, 13,000 haddock, 3000 cod.

Sch. W. H. Clement, 8000 cod.

Sch. Sarah, 2500 cod.

Sch. F. D. Brown, 1000 cod.

Sch. Valentina, 2000 haddock.

Sch. Flora J. Sears, 11,000 haddock, 500 cod, 300 hake.

Sch. Yankee, 1100 haddock, 800 cod, 1200 pollock.

Sch. Victor and Ethan, 10,000 haddock, 1000 cod, 4000 hake.

Sch. Rose Dorothea, 20,000 haddock, 5000 cod.

Sch. Walter P. Goulart, 7000 haddock, 1200 cod, 3000 hake.

Sch. Edith Silveira, 10,000 haddock, 500 cod, 3000 hake.

Sch. Galatea, 4000 haddock, 500 cod, 2000 hake.

Sch. Rita A. Viator, 4000 haddock, 500 cod, 6000 hake.

Sch. Flavilla, 7000 haddock, 4000 cod, 1000 hake, 1000 cusk.

Sch. Sadie M. Nunan, 17,000 haddock, 1200 cod, 1000 hake.

Sch. Washakie, 800 haddock, 2500 cod, 1000 hake, 4000 pollock.

Sch. Elizabeth W. Nunan, 20,000 haddock, 2000 cod.

Sch. Lillian, 2500 haddock, 1000 cod.

Sch. Gladys and Nellie, 10,000 haddock, 3000 cod, 1000 hake.

Sch. Regina, 17,000 haddock, 48,000 cod.

Sch. Thalia, 3000 haddock, 2000 cod, 2000 hake, 2000 cusk.

Off-shore haddock, \$2 per cwt.; shore haddock, \$3 to \$3.50; shore large cod, \$3; shore market cod, \$2; hake, \$1 to \$2; cusk, \$1.25; pollock, \$1.75.

Portland Fish Notes.

Activities on Commercial and Central wharves Tuesday were only slightly diminished from what they were the day before. All of the immense amount of fish which had arrived Monday had not been taken out and basketful after basketful was being hoisted to the fish houses. There has not been such a quantity of fish here in years as was the case yesterday, but thousands of pounds were being boxed up and shipped away to other cities.

Fishing steamer Carrie and Mildred has completed repairs and made her first trip to the fishing grounds yesterday laying a long string of the Atwood seines.

Sch. Angie B. Watson was placed on the mud at the head of Commercial wharf Tuesday taking on a new wheel to replace one broken a few days ago.

In marked contrast to the heavy arrivals of fish on Monday, Tuesday outside of the small boats only one fishing vessel put in an appearance, the sch. Emerald, with pollock.

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FISH ARRIVALS COMING SLOW.

Only One Vessel From Boston
and Shore Boats.

Outside of one Georges haddock down from Boston and a couple of shore boats with small fares, there have been no fish arrivals since last report.

Sch. Lucania, down from Boston yesterday afternoon, had 70,000 pounds of fresh fish and the steamer Nomad and sch. Florida had a few thousand pounds of market fish.

Arrivals and receipts in detail are:

Today's Arrivals and Receipts.

Sch. Lucania, via Boston, 70,000 lbs. fresh cod.

Steamer Nomad, shore, 3500 lbs. fresh fish.

Sch. Muriel, via Boston.

Sch. Florida, shore, 2500 lbs. fresh fish.

Sch. Mary E. Sinnett, shore.

Sch. Saladin, via Boston.

Sch. Juliette, shore.

Sch. Marguerite, shore.

Sch. Thalia, via Boston.

Sch. Ellen C. Burke, via Boston.

Vessels Sailed.

Sch. Ida S. Brooks, shore.

Sch. Emily Sears, shore.

Sch. Leo, shore.

Sch. Mildred Robinson, haddocking.

Steamer Nomad, netting.

Steamer Quoddy, netting.

Sch. Slade Gorton, haddocking.

Sch. Emily Cooney, shore.

Sch. Pauline, Georges.

Today's Fish Market.

Bank halibut, 9½ cents per lb., for white, and 7 3-4 cents per lb. for gray. Georges halibut, 10c per lb., for white and 8c for gray.

Large halibut cod, \$3 per cwt.; medium cod, \$2.75; snappers, \$1.50.

Trawl salt Georges cod, large, \$3.50; mediums, \$3.

Large salt handline Georges cod, \$3.50; mediums, \$3.00.

Trawl bank cod, large, \$3 per cwt.; medium, \$2.75; snappers, \$1.50.

Salt cusk, large, \$2.50 per cwt.; medium, \$2; snappers, \$1.

Salt pollock, \$1.25 per cwt.; salt haddock, \$1.25; salt hake, \$1.25.

Splitting prices for fresh fish, Western cod, large \$2 per cwt.; medium do., \$1.65; Eastern cod, large, \$1.60; medium cod, \$1.40; cusk, \$1.60 for large, \$1.20 for medium and 50c for snappers; haddock, 80 cts.; hake, 90 cts.; pollock, round 65 cts., dressed 70 cts.

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Sent Halibut to Market.

Sch. Onato, which arrived at Boston yesterday, besides her own big fare, marketed 400 pounds of halibut for Capt. Patrick Vale of sch. Titania, the latter craft, a Georges handliner, remaining out on good fishing but sending in her halibut while they were new.

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Sch. Senator Spoken.

Capt. Christopher Gibbs of sch. John Hays Hammond reports speaking sch. Senator on Quero bank recently.

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HANDLINING HELPED SHARES.

Halibut Trip of Sch. John Hays Hammond Stocked \$3100.

Sch. John Hays Hammond, Capt. Gibbs, stocked \$3100 as the result of her recent four weeks fresh halibut trip, the crew sharing all the way from \$64 to \$106. The former amount was the regular share, but there was quite a lot of handline fish and the men shared on these according to what they caught individually. Several had \$70 and \$80 checks coming to them and the lucky high line chap took down the big amount of \$106.

This is the third halibut trip which Capt. Gibbs has landed thus far this year and he is certainly setting a hot pace. The captain is a very capable young man and his friends hope that he will keep up his good work.

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AMENDMENTS TO THE LOBSTER LAW.

Subject of Extended
Hearing at
State House Yesterday.

Length of lobster, and what effect the nine-inch-over-all minimum of stretch has to do with the decrease of that luscious crustacean, occupied the attention of the legislative committee on fisheries and game at the state house yesterday morning. Three or four bills were up for consideration, and room 505, where the hearings were held, was crowded with men who trap lobsters for a living, dealers in lobsters in Boston and other places and representatives from the house and senate who were present in favor or protest for their constituents.

A proposed law compelling the making of barrels, boxes and other packages, in transit, containing lobsters, with the word, "Lobsters," together with the full name of the shipper and consignee, was the first bill taken up. The measure was recommended by the commissioners of fisheries and game, and that body was represented by G. H. Garfield, one of its members. Mr. Garfield explained that such a law would aid in preventing dealing in short lobsters and discourage the dishonest ones who ship illegal lengths from continuing in business. He explained that most of the regular dealers in Boston were in favor of such a law. There was no objection.

Fishermen Unanimous in Opposition
to Licenses.

There was something doing in the way of protest when the senate bill to require and provide a license to catch lobsters was taken up for discussion. The bill proposes a license fee of \$1 to catch lobsters, and that all buoys, traps, nets and cars while in the water must bear the owner's name, and the number of his license in black figures not less than four inches long on a white flag not less than two feet in length. Section 5 of the bill provides for a penalty of \$25 for any violation of the law; also seizure of equipment and revocation of license.

Mr. Garfield of the fish and game commission tried to make the lobstermen see how well such a scheme would aid in protecting their lobster pots being pulled by unscrupulous persons, but they couldn't see that there was any need of a license law, and as for identifying their traps and pots with flags to prevent them being robbed, they said it would have no effect whatever. This bill did not have a single supporter other than the representative of the fish and game commission.

When the chairman of the committee asked for all who were opposed to the bill to stand up, every man in the room who came to discuss the proposed legislation arose.

Bill to Increase Legal Length Also Opposed.

The measure designed to change the minimum length of the lobster from nine inches to 10 1-2 inches was opposed by all the lobster men present; also the proposition to change the mode of measuring from full length to the length of the shell on the back.

Some of the lobstermen admitted they cared little how the measurements were made, but finally when asked to express their preference all voted to let the length and the manner of measuring remain as it is.

The measure was opposed by Representative Quinn for the lobstermen of Swampscott, by Joseph Sorrell for the lobstermen of Boston harbor, by Representative Adams for the lobstermen of Marblehead, by John Lawton of Rockport and several others.

F. M. Johnson, a Boston dealer, expressed his opinion, founded on long years of experience, regarding the evil of the nine-inch-law. Lobsters of that size do not spawn, he said. At 10 1-2 inches length they do. His contention was that the nine-inch lobster should be protected, and that unless it was done the lobster business would be down and out within 10 years.

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Mr. Johnson's remarks made everybody in the room sit up and take notice. He knew what he was talking about, he said, and what he said was in line with the views of the fish and game commission. That 10 1-2 inches should be the minimum was the view of several others who were not directly interested.

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Resolution on Steam Trawling.

In the Nova Scotia legislature at Halifax on Tuesday, Hon. Mr. Murray, Premier, in answer to questions asked on a previous day by the honorable member for Shelburne, N. S., (Mr. Nickerson), said that the government transmitted to the department of marine and fisheries at Ottawa the resolution adopted by this house at the last session of the legislature with respect to the innovation in fishing known as steam trawling, and urged prompt consideration of said resolution by said department. The government was not aware of correspondence on the subject between representative men of Canada and other countries, or of any conference between the same with respect to prohibiting the above method of fishing. The government was not in a position to state whether any conclusion had yet been reached or whether negotiations were yet pending.

Pensacola Fish Notes.

The fishing fleet has been making some large catches of late and good prices are secured for the fish.

Warren & Co. had the following:

Smack Silas Storms, 21,000 snappers and 4000 groupers; Ariola, 22,000 snappers and 4000 groupers; Alcoma, 24,000 snappers and 5000 groupers; Chicago, 16,000 snappers and 4000 groupers, and Osceola, 18,000 snappers and 4000 groupers.

E. E. Saunders & Co.: Cavilier, 24,000 snappers; Caviare, 23,000 snappers, 5000 groupers; John M. Keen, 20,000 snappers and 6000 groupers; Clara R. Harwood, 25,000 snappers and 6000 groupers.

Because of severe weather all the small fishing boats are now laid up.

Fishermen Scarce at Newfoundland.

The merchants at different points in Conception Bay, N. F., principally at Harbor Grace, are now looking for men to go to the fishery. They have found great difficulty in securing a sufficient number up to the present. It is expected that a great many of them will conduct their business this season on a smaller scale than in former years.

Herring Struck Off at St. Jacques.

Herring have struck off here at St. Jacques, N. F.; none for the past week; at Rencontre and Lally Cove recently hauls of 300 and 200 barrels respectively were made; they are being sold to a Canadian vessel, the last remaining, the others having loaded and gone.

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WANTS FROZEN FISH DEFINED.

Boston Dealer Claims Present
Decision Untenable.

Complaining that the government has placed itself in the position of contending that fish should be frozen before being caught to be "naturally frozen," a Boston firm of fish dealers has asked Representative Roberts of Massachusetts to protest to the treasury department against a recent ruling.

The letter says that the treasury department held that fresh herring naturally frozen, was not dutiable as frozen fish at three-fourths of a cent duty per pound, but that this was modified by a letter on March 5, from the department addressed to the collector of Boston, saying there seemed to be some misunderstanding.

This latter letter held that fish frozen in tubs or on decks of vessels after they have been caught cannot be classed as "natural frozen," and therefore are subject to the old duty of three-fourths of a cent a pound.